

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled) An acoustic receiver, comprising:
means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;
a housing surrounding said converting means; and
a jacket surrounding at least a portion of said housing.
2. (Currently Amended) An acoustic receiver, comprising:
means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;
a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal; and
a jacket having at least three sections for engaging at least three of said sides, said three sections being generally flat and lying on respective ones of said sides, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protecting said housing and said means for converting from damage due to handling, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.
3. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of stainless steel.
4. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of a soft magnetic material.
5. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of a polymer.
6. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is primarily made of Kapton.
7. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of epoxy.

8. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket includes silicone.
9. (Canceled) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is adapted to dampen vibration of said housing.
10. (Canceled) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is adapted to enhance the structural integrity of said housing.
11. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is adapted to shield said converting means from the effects of electromagnetic interference.
12. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said converting means includes electromagnetic components and a diaphragm.
13. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is preconfigured to be press-fit directly onto said housing.
14. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is welded onto said housing.
15. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is adhered to said housing.
16. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, further including a layer of acoustical dampening material below said jacket.
17. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said ~~receiver~~ jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.

18. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said ~~receiver~~ jacket has a generally trapezium shape.
19. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said ~~receiver~~ jacket has a generally trapezium-shaped cross section.
20. (Currently Amended) A transducer, comprising:
 - means for converting between an acoustic signal and an audio signal;
 - a housing surrounding said converting means; and
 - a jacket surrounding at least a portion of said housing prior to installation of said transducer into a hearing aid or a telecommunications system so as to protect said transducer against damage due to handling thereof during said installation, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.
21. (Original) The transducer of claim 20, wherein said transducer is a microphone.
22. (Original) The transducer of claim 20, wherein said transducer is a receiver.
23. (Canceled) The transducer of claim 20, wherein said jacket is adapted to dampen vibration of said housing.
24. (Original) The transducer of claim 20, further in combination with a second transducer having a second housing, said jacket surrounding at least a portion of said housing of said transducer and at least a portion of said second housing of said second transducer.
25. (Currently Amended) A microphone, comprising:
 - means for converting an acoustic signal into an audio signal;
 - a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an input port for receiving said acoustic signal; and

a jacket having at least three sections for engaging at least three of said sides, said three sections being generally flat and lying on respective ones of said sides, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said microphone and protecting said housing and said means for converting from damage due to handling, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.

26. (Currently Amended) An acoustic receiver, comprising:

means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;

a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal;

a jacket having sections for engaging said sides, one of said sections and a corresponding side forming a gap therebetween, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protecting said housing and said means for converting from damage due to handling, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback; and

a printed circuit board located at least partially within said gap, said printed circuit board including electronics for processing said input audio signal.

27. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said jacket is made of a soft magnetic material.

28. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said printed circuit board is a flexible printed circuit board.

29. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said electronics includes an amplifier.

30. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said ~~receiver~~ jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.

31. (Currently Amended) An acoustic receiver, comprising:

means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;
a housing having six sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal; and
a jacket having a rectangular cross-section for closely interfitting with four of said six sides, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protecting said housing and said means for converting from damage due to handling, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.

32. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, wherein said jacket is made of a soft magnetic material.

33. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, wherein said jacket is welded to said sides.

34. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, wherein said jacket is a polymer.

35. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, further including a dampening material between said jacket and said housing.

36. (Currently Amended) An acoustic receiver, comprising:
means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;
a housing having sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal; and
an epoxy jacket encapsulating said housing, said epoxy jacket being adapted to enhance the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protect said housing and said means for converting from damage due to handling, said epoxy jacket having a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.[:;]

37. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, further including a printed circuit board located within said epoxy jacket, said printed circuit board including electronics for processing said input audio signal.

38. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said epoxy has a generally uniform thickness.
39. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said epoxy has a variable thickness.
40. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said ~~acoustic receiver~~ epoxy jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.
41. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said ~~acoustic receiver~~ epoxy jacket has a generally D-shaped cross section.
42. (Currently Amended) An acoustic receiver, comprising:
means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;
a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal;
a jacket spaced away from said housing; and
an acoustic dampening material positioned between said jacket and said housing prior to installation of said acoustic receiver into a hearing aid or a telecommunications system so as to protect said acoustic receiver against damage due to handling thereof during said installation, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.
43. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said dampening material is silicone.
44. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said dampening material is a resilient material.
45. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said ~~acoustic receiver~~ jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.

46. (Currently Amended) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said ~~acoustic receiver~~ jacket has a generally D-shaped cross section.

47. (Original) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, further including a printed circuit board located within said dampening material, said printed circuit board including electronics for processing said input audio signal.

48. (New) A method of assembling a transducer that minimizes damage to internal components thereof during assembly, comprising:

providing said transducer having means for converting between an input audio signal and an acoustic signal;
substantially surrounding said transducer with a housing;
installing a jacket that at least partially covers said housing to form a transducer assembly having enhanced structural integrity relative to that of said housing without said jacket; and
after said installing, inserting said transducer assembly into a hearing aid or a telecommunications system.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said installing includes attaching said jacket to said housing such that said housing is non-removable from said jacket.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said installing includes one of welding, adhering, and press-fitting.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said jacket is made of a material that suppresses the effects of electromagnetic interference.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said material is one of stainless steel and a soft magnetic material.

53. (New) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is non-removably coupled to said housing.